Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07596 01 OF 02 250510Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------045466 250520Z /12
O 250400Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4236

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 7596

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
SUBJ: AWACS ASSURANCES

REF: STATE 199924

1. LTG FISH HAD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN AND LTG RABII (COMMANDER, IIAF) ON SUBJECT AUGUST 24, WHICH ALSO COVERED ELEMENTS IN HUMPHREY/CASE AUGUST 5 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. NEITHER TOUFANIAN NOR RABII FOUND PROPOSED ASSURANCES TROUBLESOME SINCE THEY VIEWED THEM AS REFLECTING POINTS TO WHICH GOI ALREADY COMMITTED UNDER, FOR EXAMPLE, FMS ARRANGEMENTS WITH USG. TOUFANIAN STATED GOI AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO ASSURANCES NOTING, HOWVER, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE WRITTEN REPORT TO THE SHAH.

2. FISH OPENED DISCUSSION WITH BOTH BY STATING CATEGORIC COMMITMENT OF PRESIDENT AND ENTIRE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO AWACS SALE TO IRAN. TOUFANIAN AND RABII EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THIS AFFIRMATION, NOTING SINGULAR IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL CONSUMMATION OF AWACS SALE TO DEVELOPMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07596 01 OF 02 250510Z

OF A CAPABLE AND CREDIBLE DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO THREAT IRAN FACES IN THIS INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE REGION. IN THAT REGARD RABII NOTED THAT IRAN THREATENED BY FAR MORE THAN IRAQ; 360 DEGREE DEFENSE CAPABILITY IS REQUIRED, AND THIS GREATLY COMPLICATED BY SIZE OF IRAN (AS COMPARIED TO WEST GERMANY, OR EVEN WESTERN EUROPE) AND ITS EXTREMELY RUGGED AND MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. BOTH TOUFANIAN AND RABII MADE STRONG CASE FOR EXCELLENT QUALITY OF IRANIAN SECURITY, POINTING OUT THAT GOI HAS NEVER HAD SECURITY COMPROMISE. BOTH AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO "SECURITY PRECAUTIONS" ASSURANCES, WITH TOUFANIAN REMINDING FISH THAT GOI MILITARY MADE PRACTICE OF ASKING US IF ANY SHORTCOMINGS PER-CEIVED WITH IRANIAN SECURITY, AND FOR ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE MOST MODERN PROCEDURES AND SECURITY PRACTICES.

4. TOUFA POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE REASONS IRAN PROPOSED TO BUY AWACS IS TO UNDERSCORE ITS DEFENSIVE INTENTIONS, SINCE AWACS WILL PERMIT GOI TO MOUNT CAPABLE AIR DEFENSE FURTHER INLAND THAN LESSER CAPABLE AIRBORNE PLATFORMS OR, CERTAINLY, ALL GROUND RADAR SYSTEM. TOUFANIAN WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT GOI HAD LIMITED, OUTMODED GROUND RADAR SYSTEM WHICH ENTIRELY INCAPABLE AGAINST MODERN, LOW ATTACK TACTIC. THAT TACTIC, IN CONJUNCTION WITH IRANIAN TERRAIN, MADE AIRBORNE/ GROUND RADAR COMBINATION ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO AWACS TOUFANIAN MADE CLEAR THERE WERE NONE. HE REVIEWED SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN HE HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED, AND LATER BRIEFED THE SHAH, ON E-2C HAWKEYE ALONG LINES REPORTED TEHRAN 5966 (DTG 070414Z JUL 77). GOI ASSESSMENT CONCLUDED THAT E-2C DID NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO COPE WITH CLUTTER AND DUCTING PROBLEMS IN IRAN. TOUFANIAN SAID GOI WOULD NEVER PURCHASE HAWKEYE.

SECRET

SECRET

6. TOUFANIAN SAID THAT GOI HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO UK NIMROD AS A POSSIBLE AWACS ALTERNATIVE, BUT ALSO FOUND IT SIGNIFICANTLY WANTING. FOR EXAMPLE, NIMROD LOOKDOWN CAPABILITY JUST NOT ADEQUATE TO IRANIAN NEEDS. IN ORDER TO HAVE NIMROD WITH ADEQUATE CAPABILITY GOI CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR IRAN TO ASSIST UK WITH ADDITIONAL NIMROD R&D UNTIL 1982 OR 1983, OR PERHAPS LONGER. AND, OF COURSE, SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN PROVIDING IRAN WITH ENOUGH CAPABILITY TO DO THE JOB. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD ALSO REQUIRE GREATER IRANIAN RESOURCES THEN WOULD AWACS ALTERNATIVE. TOUFANIAN ADMITTED THAT IRAN MIGHT BE FORCED TO THIS IF US COULD NOT SELL AWACS. HE FOUND THIS CURIOUS, HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF LIMITED GOI RESOURCES AND SKEPTICISM ON PART OF SOME ABOUT IRAN'S ABSORPTION CAPABILITY. WITH RESPECT TO BOTH RESOURCES AND ABSORPTION IRAN WOULD HAVE EASIER TIME WITH AWACS TOUFANIAN CONCLUDED.

7. ON QUESTIONS OF US PERSONNEL NUMBERS AND US PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONAL MISSIONS, BOTH TOUFANIAN AND RABII EMPHASIZED THAT IRAN WANTED MINIMUM NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL POSSIBLE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST, AS GOI HAD ALWAYS DONE, THAT NO US PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN IRANIAN OPERATIONAL MISSIONS. TOUFANIAN STATED FLATLY THAT IRAN HAD NO WISH TO TRAIN CADRE ELSEWHERE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THAN IN THE US, SINCE IRAN DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE TRAINING FAC-
ILITIES AND US TRAINING THEREFORE MARKEDLY CHEAPER.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07596 02 OF 02 250514Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------045552 250518Z /15
O 250400Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4237

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 7596

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

8. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION OF MULTIPLIER EFFECT, RABII SAID
HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DEFEND IRAN WITH FEWEST NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT
POSSIBLE, BUT IN VIEW OF THREATS WITH WHICH IRAN CONFRONTED
IIAF REQUIRED A BASIC NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT. EVEN AWACS COULD NOT
CHANGE THAT. INDEED, PRINCIPAL IMPACT OF AWACS MULTIPLIER EFFECT
IS DEFENSIVE, PERMITTING EXISTING AIRCRAFT TO ESCAPE DESTRUCTION
BECAUSE OF GREATER WARNING CAPABILITY.

9. TOUFANIAN AND RABII EXPRESSED THANKS FOR FISH VISIT, WHICH
PROVIDED MOST USEFUL OPPORTUNITY PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 7 RESUB-
MISSION TO CONGRESS TO DISCUSS AWACS SALE AND SHARED USG/GOI
APPROACH TO IT. TOUFANIAN AND RABII ALSO STATED THAT EXPRESSION
OF PRESIDENT'S FULL SUPPORT CONVEYED BY FISH WAS REASSURING
CONFIRMATION THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP CONSIDERED OF SINGULAR
AND SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO US. TOUFANIAN SAID HE WOULD REPORT
TO SHAH IMMEDIATELY UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM CURRENT EAST
EUROPEAN TRIP NEXT WEEK.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, AWACS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN07596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-1027
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770821/aaaaarsq.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5189e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 199924
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1480705
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AWACS ASSURANCES
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5189e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009